



**Human Services Committee  
March 12, 2015  
Senate Bill 1044 – Support**

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, and members of the Human Services Committee:

Ten years ago, my heart and love for children led me to become a family child care provider. As a working mother, I knew how difficult it was to find a safe, learning, and loving environment to leave your children while at work. I cannot describe the feeling but something in my heart told me to open Los Querubines, my day care. I decided to return to school and received an associate's degree in Early Childhood Education, and since then I have dedicated my life to caring for and educating the children of my community here in Hartford.

Currently, I am the care provider and early educator for 6 children. I enjoy working with my children to do their homework, learn by playing, and explore all the stimulating and enriching activities in my daycare. I also work as part of a team with parents to make sure all the children get the best possible start before they go to school.

With all the great work I do and the support I give my community and parents, it's sad to say on average I make \$2 an hour. I often work unpaid overtime. Many of my kids' parents use public transportation and with not that many busses running it is hard for them to get around. These parents are doing the best they can, and when they are late picking-up their kids, or can't make a copay, I pay the cost. When I call Care 4 Kids, I am always told you need to go after the parents for payments. So, I have to make the hard choice of going after a parent that I know works a minimum wage job and has no money or letting a child that I care for go.

It is sad to say, but the rich are becoming richer and everyone else is becoming poorer. Big companies should be helping not hurting the places where they do business. They are pushing wages down so low that it is hurting our whole community. When a parent cannot make a copay because they are stretched too thin trying to afford rent, food, and other bills that affects me. I am a childcare provider but I am also a mother of 3 with a mortgage and bills. I am a proud mother of a U.S. Marine, and a son I support in college, his dream is to be an architect. My youngest is 14, and the low wages I make as an early educator are forcing me to leave the job I love, to provide for my own children. I worry about the future of my daycare, the cost of everything keeps going up and my income is getting lower and lower, that is not fair to me, my family, and the children I care for. We must come together to improve our country. Walmart and MacDonald's and other big businesses have to contribute to help better our society.

Vote yes Senate Bill # 1044

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